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This Issue:
LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER
CHICKENS & EGGS
OCTOBER CROP PRODUCTION
SMALL GRAINS—ANNUAL SUMMARY
'September Ag Survey Results'
AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL USAGE
MILK PRODUCTION

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

August Red Meat Production

WEST VIRGINIA— Commercial red meat production during August 2004 totaled 500,000 pounds. This was up 86 percent from July 2004, but unchanged from August 2003 production. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 522,000 pounds live weight, down 15 percent from August 2003. Cattle slaughter totaled 500 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 992 pounds, was down 61 pounds from a year ago.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 277,000 pounds live weight, up 28 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 1100 head, up 200 head from the previous year. The average live weight, at 257 pounds, was up 23 pounds from the previous year.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter totaled 8,000 pounds live weight, down 38 percent from last year. Sheep and lamb slaughter totaled 100 head, unchanged from the previous year. The average live weight at 116 pounds, was down 4 pounds from the previous year.

UNITED STATES—Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.88 billion pounds in

August, down 1 percent from the 3.92 billion pounds produced in August 2003.

Beef production, at 2.15 billion pounds, was 8 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.82 million head, down 10 percent from August 2003. The average live weight was up 27 pounds from the previous year, at 1,252 pounds.

Veal production totaled 13.9 million pounds, 2 percent below August a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 72,800 head, down 9 percent from August 2003. The average live weight was 26 pounds above last year, at 320 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.70 billion pounds, up 9 percent from the previous year, and was a record monthly high. Hog kill totaled 8.72 million head, 8 percent above August 2003. The average live weight was 2 pounds above the previous year, at 262 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.1 million pounds, was down 4 percent from August 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 232,600 head, 4 percent below last year. The average live weight was 129 pounds, unchanged from August a year ago.

January to August 2004 commercial red meat production was 29.9 billion pounds, down 4 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 9 percent from last year, veal was down 10 percent, pork was up 4 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 2 percent.

August 2003 contained 21 weekdays (including no holidays) and 5 Saturdays. **August 2004** contained 22 weekdays (including no holidays) and 4 Saturdays.

CHICKENS & EGGS

August Egg Production Up 2 Percent

U.S. egg production totaled 7.52 billion during August 2004, up 2 percent from last year. Production included 6.43 billion table eggs, and 1.09 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.03 billion were broiler-type and 60.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during August 2004 averaged 342 million, up 2 percent from a

year earlier. August egg production per 100 layers was 2,197 eggs, down slightly from August 2003.

August 2004 contained 22 weekdays and 4 Saturdays, compared to **August 2003** which contained 21 weekdays and 5 Saturdays.

All layers in the U.S. on September 1, 2004, totaled 342 million, up 2 percent from a year ago. The 342 million layers consisted of 284 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 55.8 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.64 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on September 1, 2004, averaged 70.8 eggs per 100 layers, up slightly from a year ago.

Laying flocks in the 30 major egg producing States produced 7.03 billion eggs during August 2004, up 2 percent from a year ago. The average number of layers during August, at 320 million, was up 2 percent from a year ago.

Individual State estimates are available for the 30 major egg producing States. These States are as follows: AL, AR, CA, CO, CT, FL, GA, HI, IL, IN, IA, ME, MD, MI, MN, MS, MO, NE, NY, NC, OH, OK, OR, PA, SC, SD, TX, VA, WA, and WI and account for approximately 94 percent of the total U.S. egg production. Production for the other States are grouped into an "Other States" category and combined with the 30 States published individually to obtain a U.S. estimate.

Egg-Type Chicks Hatched Up 9 Percent

Egg-type chicks hatched during August totaled 36.0 million, up 9 percent from August 2003. Eggs in incubators totaled 32.5 million on September 1, 2004, up 1 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 313,000 during August 2004, up 66 percent from August 2003.

Broiler Hatch Up 3 Percent

The August 2004 **hatch of broiler-type chicks**, at 810 million, was up 3 percent from August of the previous year. There were 654 million eggs in incubators on September 1, 2004, up 3 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.28 million **broiler-type pullet chicks** for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during August 2004, down 2 percent from August 2003.

OCTOBER CROP PRODUCTION

October Crop Production

WEST VIRGINIA - The forecast for the 2004 **apple** production is 85 million pounds (2.02 million 42-lb. bushel equivalents), unchanged from the August 1 forecast, but down 2 million pounds or 2 percent from the 2003 crop.

Other hay production is forecast at 988,000 tons, up 4 percent from the 2003 crop. Other hay harvested acreage is expected to total 520,000 acres in 2004, up 20,000 acres from 2003. Yield is expected to average 1.9 tons per acre, unchanged from last year's yield. Due to program modifications, October 1 production forecast for alfalfa hay is not being published for West Virginia. The next alfalfa hay estimate will be published in January 2005.

The current estimate for **tobacco** production is 1.95 million pounds, up 25 percent from 2003. This estimate is carried forward from our August 1 forecast.

UNITED STATES - Apples: The final production forecast for the 2004 crop year is 9.46 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the August 1 forecast and 10 percent above 2003. Of the 7 States making October 1 production forecasts, New York and Washington increased from the August 1 forecast, Virginia and West Virginia remained unchanged, while Michigan, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania decreased from August. Growers in the Eastern States and Central apple producing regions are expecting decreases in production from the August 1 forecast, while producers in the Western region are expecting an increase. Compared to 2003, production increases in the Eastern and Western States more than offset decreases in the Central States.

Alfalfa and Alfalfa Mixtures: Production is forecast at 77.4 million tons, virtually unchanged from the August forecast but up 1 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 3.48 tons per acre, unchanged from August but 0.24 ton above last year. Harvested area is 22.2 million acres, unchanged from the previous forecast but down 6 percent from 2003.

Other Hay: Production is forecast at 88.5 million tons, up 5 percent from August and up 10 percent from 2003. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 2.25 tons, up 0.10 ton from August and 0.22 ton above last year. If realized, both yield and production will be the highest on record. Harvested area is 39.4 million acres, unchanged from the August estimate but down 1 percent from the previous year.

Corn for grain: Production is forecast at 11.6 billion bushels, up 6 percent from last month and 15 percent above 2003. Based on conditions as of October 1, the

yield is expected to average 158.4 bushels per acre, up 9.0 bushels from September and 16.2 bushels above last year. If realized, both production and yield would be the largest on record. The previous record for both was set last year when production was estimated at 10.1 billion bushels and yield was 142.2 bushels per acre. Yields are forecast at record high levels in all Corn Belt States, except Minnesota and Wisconsin, as weather conditions have been mostly favorable throughout the growing season. Based on administrative information, acreage updates were made in several States and farmers now expect to harvest 73.3 million acres of corn for grain, down 66,000 acres from September but up 3 percent from 2003.

Soybean: Production is forecast at 3.11 billion bushels, up 10 percent from the September forecast and 27 percent above 2003. If realized, this would be the largest U.S. soybean crop on record. Based on conditions as of October 1, yield is expected to average a record high 42.0 bushels per acre, up 3.5 bushels from September. Based on administrative data, acreage updates were made in several States. Area planted is now estimated at 75.1 million acres, up 256,000 acres from the August estimate. Area for harvest is forecast at 74.0 million acres, up 335,000 from September.

All Tobacco: U.S. all tobacco production is forecast at 883 million pounds, virtually unchanged from the September forecast but up 10 percent from 2003. Area for harvest is forecast at 409,610 acres, 1 percent below last month and down less than 1 percent from 2003. Yields for 2004 are expected to average 2,156 pounds per acre, 22 pounds higher than last month's forecast and 204 pounds above a year ago.

Burley Tobacco: Production is expected to total 302 million pounds, virtually unchanged since September but up 7 percent since 2003. Growers plan to harvest 154,100 acres, down 1 percent since last month but up 1 percent since last year. Yields are expected to average 1,958 pounds per acre, up 29 pounds since last month and 108 pounds more than a year ago

SMALL GRAINS – ANNUAL SUMMARY *'September Ag Survey Results'*

2004 Small Grains Summary

WEST VIRGINIA - Winter wheat production for 2004 totaled 260,000 bushels, down 9 percent from 287,000 bushels in 2003. Harvested area for grain totaled 5,000 acres, down 29 percent from 2003. Area planted totaled 8,000 acres, down 33 percent from last year. The average yield of 52.0 bushels was up 11 bushels from the previous year. Estimates for oats, barley and rye are not included in the estimating program for West Virginia.

UNITED STATES - All wheat production totaled 2.16 billion bushels in 2004, up 2 percent from the last forecast but 8 percent below 2003. Grain area is 50.2 million acres, down 5 percent from last year. The

U.S. yield is 43.1 bushels per acre, down 1.1 bushels from a year ago. Levels of production and change from last year by type are: winter wheat, 1.50 billion bushels, down 13 percent; other spring wheat, 574 million bushels, up 8 percent; and Durum wheat, 90.5 million bushels, down 6 percent.

Oat production is estimated at 117 million bushels in 2004, 9 percent below the August 1 forecast and 19 percent below last year's 144 million bushels. The estimated yield is 64.5 bushels per acre, down 1.5 bushels from August and down 0.5 bushel from a year ago. Record high yields are estimated in South Dakota and Washington. Harvested area is 1.81 million acres, 7 percent below the August 1 forecast and 19 percent below last year. This is the smallest acreage harvested for grain on record, continuing a steady downward trend.

Barley production is estimated at 280 million bushels, up 3 percent from the August 1 forecast and up 1 percent from last year. Average yield per acre, at a record high 69.5 bushels, is up 3.8 bushels from the last forecast and 10.6 bushels above 2003. The area harvested for grain is estimated at 4.03 million acres, down 3 percent from August and 15 percent below a year ago. The increase from the previous production forecast is mostly due to Montana, where harvested area is up 50,000 acres and the yield increased by 8 bushels per acre. For Idaho, North Dakota, and Washington, yields increased from August but are more than offset by decreases in the harvested acreage, resulting in lower production.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL USAGE

Highlights

Chemical Use Highlights: There were 335 active ingredients reported as being used by nursery and floriculture operations in the 6 Program States in 2003. A total of 4.77 million pounds of active ingredients, a decrease from 5.36 million in 2000, was applied in the Program States: California, Florida, Michigan, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Texas.

Nursery and Floriculture Operation Highlights: There were 4,276 nursery operations sampled for the 2003 survey. Of the sampled nursery operations, 56 percent fell within the gross value of sales range of \$10,000 to \$99,999. Only 45 operations had a gross value of sales of greater than \$10 million.

There were 4,359 floriculture operations sampled. Of the sampled operations 1,179 (27 percent) had a gross value of sales between \$100,000 to \$499,999, the most common grouping. Floriculture operations were not grouped beyond a gross value of sales of \$500,000; a direct comparison between nursery and floriculture operations cannot be made.

Of floriculture and nursery operations, 70 percent used licensed operators/employee applicators, 28 percent used unlicensed operators/employee applicators, 5 percent used other methods, and 3 percent hired custom applicators.

The most common locality for chemical applications was in open areas, at 56 percent. Of operations sampled, 44 percent of them applied chemicals in enclosed greenhouses, 14 percent in shade structures, 4 percent in non-production areas, and 3 percent in natural shade areas.

Pest Management Highlights: Scouting for pests by conducting general observations while performing routine tasks was reported by 76 percent of the nursery and floriculture operations. Deliberately scouting for pests on a scheduled basis was an alternative method to gage infestation levels. Thirty-five percent of operations used this identification method. Electronic records of disease levels were kept by 28 percent of those surveyed.

Seventy-seven of operations surveyed inspected incoming stock to detect weeds, insects, diseases or pathogens. Insect traps were used in 32 percent of operations, and 25 percent of nursery and floriculture operations performed soil analysis to determine pest pressures.

The leading methods reported for weed, insect or disease control were: pruning out/removing infected plants or plant parts - 86 percent; utilizing ground covers, mulches or other physical barriers - 72 percent; using greenhouse ventilation - 67 percent; tilling, mowing, or burning of field or greenhouse borders, lanes, etc. - 65 percent; and sanitizing ground covers between uses - 64 percent.

To decrease the risk of pest infestations, 52 percent of operations chose disease resistant plant varieties, an increase from the 46 percent reported in 2000.

To keep pests from becoming resistant to pesticides, 57 percent of operations in the 6 Program States rotated or tank mixed pesticides in 2003.

Only 40 percent of operations applied pesticides on a preventative schedule, while 49 percent used scouting

data and used threshold levels as a guide to spray pesticides.

Monitoring of weather data to assist in making pesticide application decisions was reported by 68 percent of operations.

MILK PRODUCTION

Third Quarter Milk Production

WEST VIRGINIA -- Milk production in West Virginia totaled 51 million pounds during the July - September quarter of 2004. This was down 5 million pounds from the same quarter last year and 1 million pounds below the April - June 2004 quarter. The number of dairy cows averaged 13,000 head, unchanged from the previous quarter, but down 2,000 head from the same quarter last year.

UNITED STATES -- Milk production in the U.S. during the July-September quarter totaled 42.2 billion pounds, up 1.1 percent from the July-September quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.03 million head, 40,000 head less than the same period last year.

Livestock Slaughter
Chicken & Eggs
November Crop Production
Cattle on Feed
Farm Labor
Agricultural Chemical Usage

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